

FIRST SELECTMAN RAYMOND G. BALDWIN, JR.
PUBLIC HEARING STATEMENT, OCTOBER 23, 2006
U.I. SUBSTATION ON WILDFIRE LANE

Once again, I would like to welcome the members of the Connecticut State Siting Council to the town of Trumbull.

This is the first time the Town of Trumbull has had any formal involvement with the State Siting Council regarding the installation of a substation or any other related power company application for that matter and this has been, to say the least, a challenging experience on many levels.

The Town recognizes, and indeed acknowledges, the need for a 115MV Substation to service our community. We further recognize that due to increased development in and around our town that usage has increased between 38 to 45%.

We also are aware that the Substations in Shelton and Bridgeport, which currently service Trumbull, are at or near capacity. And, lastly, we have been told that this proposed Substation will service resident and businesses in a 5 to 7 mile radius of the site.

The question then becomes, where it should go.

Trumbull has always prided itself on its smart growth and the protection of our residential property owners from any type of commercial or industrial development which compromises or otherwise diminishes the character and value of their property.

The proposed installation of the UI Substation on Wildflower Road is far more intrusive than anything that has ever been proposed in our town, and its impact is not only on property values and character but on the health, safety and welfare of our citizens.

I have lived in Trumbull for 58 years, and our town planners and zoning boards have consistently and vigorously opposed any proposal which jeopardizes our residential core and its citizens' well being.

Since the UI Company first gave us notice of the proposed Substation site on Wildflower Lane, the Town has attempted to find an alternative site that did not impact any residential neighborhood.

Such a site exists.

Site II on Quarry Road is a 5+ acre commercially zoned parcel in the southern part of our town—over 900 feet from the nearest residence.

It is larger than the Wildflower site, and it would be particularly suited not only for this substation but also for UI's future plans to construct a Transmission Station, which we only learned about this past Saturday.

- Given the health, safety and welfare issues involved here;
- Given the devaluation of property values involved here; and
- Given the last minute disclosure of a proposed Transmission Station on this site by UI;
- The Town of Trumbull believes that Quarry Road (Site II) is the only site suitable for this project.

The Town has attempted to negotiate with UI for the acquisition of the homes on Stella Road and those within 300 feet of the Wildflower site, and we've been told, "If that's what the Siting Council directs us to do, we will do it."

We were even told by UI representatives Saturday that the loss of value of these properties would be minimal and that UI could re-sell them at or near market value,

but,

They would not agree to do that.

If the Quarry Road site is rejected by this Council, I would ask that you so direct them.

At the very least, I would ask this Council to hold these hearings open, to allow the Town and the Wildflower Coalition time to prepare interrogatories and to research this newly disclosed usage of the site as a Transmission Station.

To do otherwise would be a serious injustice to all the citizens of Trumbull

Raymond G. Baldwin, Jr., First Selectman
Town of Trumbull